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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,653	07/23/2001	Eiji Kawaguchi	1270-034	4633

7590

11/13/2002

Lawson Philpot & Persson
67 Water Street Suite 110
Laconia, NH 03246

EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,653

Applicant(s)

KAWAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel St. Cyr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 9/16/02.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads, US Patent No. 5,636,292, in view of Lofberg, US Patent No. 4,582,985.

Rhoads discloses a steganography method employing embedded calibration data comprising: an information card that stores information data including image data (see figure 24; col. 57, line 30+), wherein the information data includes inherent data that is embedded to the information according to stenography (see col. 2, line 11+); the image is printed on the card (see col. 58, line 58), wherein the image is read using a CCD scanner; and a PIN is used to legitimate the user of the card (see col. 60, line 10+).

Rhoads discloses that a plurality of code keys are contained in the card and suggests that diskette could be used for the storage medium, but fails to explicitly disclose a memory for storing user information.

Lofberg discloses a data carrier comprising: a memory 6 for storing user identification.

In view of Lofberg's teachings, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the well known smart card into the system of Rhoads in lieu of the basic storage medium for storing user's information. Such

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modification would provide additional storage space to store more information to effectively identify each user. Furthermore, such modification could be used as an alternate means for storing information to identify the users and would provide greater processing capability to able local processing of users' transactions, which would the system more effective and more practical. Therefore, it would have been an obvious expedient.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Additional Remarks:

In response to applicant's first argument that Rohoads does not disclose a *memeory*, although the examiner provides a reference that teaches a memory, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Rohoads disclose a diskette to be used for the storage medium and teaches that the storage medium contains a plurality of code keys. A memory circuit is inherently included in the diskette or for storing the code keys.

In response to the applicant's second argument that Rohoads does not disclose identifying a user (i.e. owner of the card), the examiner respectfully disagrees. Rohoads discloses using personal identification number (PIN) to authenticate the card owner (see col. 60, lines 10-14).

The general argument of the applicant is moot with respect to the new ground of rejection. Refer to the rejection above.

Conclusion

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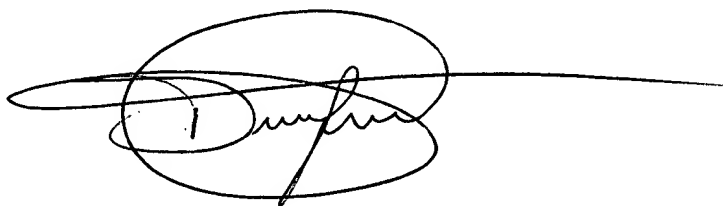
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr
Examiner
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DS
November 7, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel St.Cyr', enclosed within a large, loopy oval. A long horizontal line extends from the right side of the oval.